

**CLAIMS****What is Claimed is:**

1           1.     A supportive spring base for a mattress for a place to sleep and/or  
2 recline, the supportive spring base having a plurality of spring slats running at a  
3 parallel distance to one another, and having longitudinal struts which run  
4 transversely with respect to the spring slats and belong to a frame, the spring slats  
5 being mounted with their end regions on the longitudinal struts, characterized by  
6 connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) for connecting at least two spring slats  
7 (10) in each case.

1           2.     The supportive spring base as claimed in claim 1, characterized in  
2 that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are of at least partially elastic  
3 design for transmitting at least part of the movement of a particular spring slat (10)  
4 to at least one preferably adjacent spring slat (10).

1           3.     The supportive spring base as claimed in claim 1, characterized in  
2 that vertical compressive deflections of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35)  
3 and/or spring slats (10) are at least partially transmitted to adjacent spring slats  
4 (10) by the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35), and one particular connecting  
5 element (13, 31, 32, 35) is arranged between two adjacent, parallel spring slats  
6 (10).

1           4.     The supporting spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2 that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are mounted, in particular  
3 elastically and/or in an articulated manner, on at least two different spring slats  
4 (10).

1           5.     The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2 that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 25) are mounted on the spring slats (10)  
3 in such a manner that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are movable  
4 relative to the spring slats (10) both in a rotational and translational manner.

1           6.     The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2 that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have at least one spring element  
3 which is preferably designed as a bellows (33, 36), a spring plate and/or an elastic  
4 wing (14).

1           7.       The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2       that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have spring elements, load-bearing  
3       means (15, 34) and/or suspension devices (16, 18) for connecting the connecting  
4       elements (13, 31, 32, 35) to the spring slats (10).

1           8.       The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2       that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have suspension devices (16, 18)  
3       which can be rotated relative to the spring slats (10) about a longitudinal axis of  
4       the particular spring slat (10), and in that the suspension devices (16, 18) are  
5       additionally movable in a translational manner with respect to the spring slats  
6       (10).

1           9.       The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2       that at least one suspension device (16) of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32,  
3       35) is assigned at least one locking device (24) which fixes the particular  
4       connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35) nondisplaceably in the longitudinal direction  
5       of at least one spring slat (10) in a frictional and/or non-positive manner, and/or  
6       the or each locking device (24) is connected flexibly to the particular connecting  
7       element (13, 31, 32, 35), namely the load-bearing means (15, 34) of the same, in  
8       such a manner that the or each locking device (24) does not substantially impair  
9       the mobility of the suspension devices (16, 18).

1           10.      The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in  
2       that the spring slats (10) are connected by a connecting element (37) having a  
3       plurality of continuous strands (39), the strands (39) running in a direction  
4       deviating from the longitudinal direction of the spring slats and extending  
5       transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction of the spring slats (10).

1           11.      The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in  
2       that the strands (39) run parallel to one another at identical distances, the  
3       distances between the strands (39) being smaller than the distances between the  
4       spring slats (10).

1           12.      The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in  
2       that the strands (39) are of elastic design, and consist at least for the most part of  
3       plastic.  
4

1           13.    The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in  
2   that the strands (39) are connected to the spring slats (10) at the point at which  
3   they extend over the spring slats (10).

1           14.    The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in  
2   that, in the regions between the spring slats (10), the strands (39) can be changed  
3   in respect of their elastic properties by means of inserts and/or attachments and  
4   can be provided with greater stiffness.

1           15.    The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in  
2   that the strands (39) are connected by transverse strands (40), and the strands  
3   (39) and the transverse strands (40) are connected to one another integrally at  
4   their crossing points to form a net (38).

1           16.    The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in  
2   that the net (38) is connected to the spring slats (10) in the region of transverse  
3   strands (40), which extend over the spring slats (10), by means of releasable  
4   elastic clamps (41).

1           17.    The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in  
2   that the net (38) can be stiffened by means of inserts and/or attachments between  
3   the spring slats (10) in order to change the coupling to the spring slats (10), and/or  
4   at least areas of the net (38) are provided with disk springs.

1           18.    The supportive spring base as claimed in Claim 15, characterized in  
2   that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) and the net (38) are of such elastic  
3   design that the supportive spring base can be rolled up.